

December 16, 2002

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SPONSOR LEGISLATION PROTECTING COUNTY BADGES AND ASSOCIATED IDENTIFICATION CARDS (ITEM NO. 117-E, AGENDA OF DECEMBER 17, 2002)

Item No. 117-E on the December 17, 2002 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe to sponsor legislation that will prohibit the unauthorized manufacture or distribution of State, County and local badges and associated photographic identification cards. The motion also directs the Sacramento advocates to seek the support of the County's Legislative Delegation and the Governor to enact this legislation.

Los Angeles County Firefighter badges were being offered for sale and manufactured without authorization from the Board of Supervisors. Existing State law controls and regulates badges issued to peace officer personnel but does not control or protect any other official badge and/or associated photographic identification card such as those issued to the Board of Supervisors, Superior Court Judges, Deputy District Attorneys, and Firefighters. The existing County Ordinance that prohibits the unauthorized sale and manufacture of Los Angeles County badges is only applicable within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Therefore, the unauthorized manufacture and sale of Los Angeles County badges that occurs outside unincorporated county areas cannot be prosecuted.

The proposed legislation will amend the California Penal Code to prohibit the unauthorized sale and manufacture of all official State, county, city, city and county, badges and/or associated photographic identification cards.

According to the Sheriff's office, due to the events of September 11, 2001, security has become a national priority. To allow the unauthorized manufacture and distribution of badges and identification cards puts the public at great risk by facilitating unlawful access to buildings and facilities. This legislation will enhance security and increase public safety.

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The District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, County Counsel, County Fire Department, and our office recommend support for this legislation.

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c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Sheriff's Department
 County Fire Department